To report a fire call emergency services on 000.

No fires

Exercise caution when on tracks. Some tracks cross frog habitats.

Enjoy the forest with a friend (don’t go alone).

No motorbikes

Carry a mobile phone. In an emergency dial 000 (or text if you have a Teletyper device) as full mobile coverage may not be present in all areas.

For more information visit www.ag.gov.au/EmergencyManagement

Managing Brisbane’s natural areas

Brisbane City Council manages more than 9000 hectares of bushland and wetland reserves. To ensure our natural areas provide healthy habitat for native plants and animals, and beautiful places for the community to enjoy, Council has to actively manage these areas. Pressures include weeds, arson, pest animals, unauthorised recreational activities such as trail bike riding.

Report arson

Arson, or bushfire started illegally, is a crime and a major threat to all reserve users, reserve neighbours and wildlife. The majority of fires in Brisbane’s bushlands are deliberately lit, or start under suspicious circumstances.

• To report a fire call emergency services on 000 (triple zero).
• To report suspicious behaviour contact Policelink on 13 14 44

For more information visit www.ag.gov.au/EmergencyManagement

For your safety

• Enjoy the forest with a friend (don’t go alone).
• Wear a hat, sunscreen and carry water.
• Wear comfortable footwear if you are going bushwalking.
• Make sure you let someone know where you are going, and when you plan to return.
• Exercise caution when on tracks. Some tracks cross creek lines and are unsafe to cross when flooded after heavy rain.
• Take a track map or use your mobile phone to download a map from www.brisbane.qld.gov.au or from QR codes located on track signs in the reserves.
• Carry a mobile phone. In an emergency dial 000 or 112 (or text 106 if you have a Teletyper device) as full mobile coverage may not be present in all areas.

Under Council’s local laws, conducting or engaging in the following activities is prohibited.

No littering
No fires
Clean up after your dog
No horse riding
No motorbikes
No swimming in water bodies
No interference with plants
No unauthorised vehicles or motorised vehicles

How to protect our bushland

Special features

Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre and picnic area

The Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre is a creative, educational and play space where visitors can explore, discover and be inspired by the area’s diverse wildlife and landscapes. Visit the Discovery Centre, play in Queensland’s first nature play space or have a picnic surrounded by eucalypt forest and a network of walking tracks.

Illaweena Street picnic area

A bridge and walking trail begin from opposite ends of this picnic area and lead you to a network of trails. This is a quiet spot to enjoy a meal beside the Illaweena Lagoon.

Poet’s Rock

Follow the track up the sandstone ridges through eucalypt forest to Poet’s Rock and enjoy the sounds of the forest.

Lagoons and wetlands

Scrubby Creek rises in Karawatha’s sandstone ridges and flows east into a string of lagoons. Lined with sedges, rushes and melaleucas, Karawatha’s wetlands and lagoons have the greatest diversity in frog species in Brisbane.

Frog Hollow wet heathland area

A seasonally inundated heathland containing a large range of plants and is one of the forest’s best frog habitats.

Popular walking tracks

Rocks Track – 2.5 km return (1 hour)

This track showcases the diversity of plants found within the forest. Sandstone ridges with woodland vegetation turn to open forest with a heath understorey. Small she-oak thickets on the slopes of the creeks become tall open forest with a heath understorey. Small sandstone boulders above the forest are distinctive of wet heath areas. After rain, listen for the different calls of the 25 frog species found in the forest.

Ironbark Circuit – 1.2 km (30 minutes)

This short circuit gives visitors an overview of the plants within the forest including she-oaks, ironbark, dominated eucalypt forest and fern-lined dry gullies. Look for kingfishers in arboreal termite nests.

Melaleuca Circuit – 1 km (20 minutes)

Located on the northern end of Scrubby Creek, this track lends itself to exploring a variety of habitats including freshwater lagoons and eucalypt forests with large scribbly gums along the lagoon edge. This is a great walk for birdwatching.

Getting there

By car: access the Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre and picnic area at 149 Acacia Road, Karawatha.

By foot: the reserve can be accessed from surrounding streets at points highlighted on the map.

By public transport: catch the train to Trinder Park Station. Visit www.translink.com.au or phone 13 12 30

By bike: go to www.brisbane.qld.gov.au and search ‘cycling in Brisbane’ to plan your trip.

Wild May Trail – 1.2 km one way (30 minutes)

Leaving from the Illaweena Street picnic area, this trail winds along paperbark-lined lagoons. This trail is named after a beautiful shrub called wild may (Leptospermum polygalifolium) commonly found in this area of Scrubby Creek.

Tip: combine this track with the Hakea, Melaleuca and Casuarina trails to create a circuit to Illaweena Street picnic area (3 kms, 1.5 hours)

Wallum Track – 2 km (1 hour)

This track passes through the heart of Karawatha Forest and leads to the Frog Hollow boardwalk, the home of the green-thighed frog and wallum froglet. Explore the sub-coastal wet heath while admiring the paperbarks and broad-leaved banksias that are distinctive of wet heath areas. After rain, listen for the different calls of the 25 frog species found in the forest.

Banksia Track – 2 km (1 hour)

True to its name, this track features a variety of banksia species. Visit in autumn when the banksias are in bloom. The track begins in Frog Hollow where wet heath provides rich habitat for 25 species of frog that call Karawatha Forest home then climbs through eucalypt forest to the crest of the hill and the sandstone boulders of Poet’s Rock. This track connects with the Dianella, Wallum and Dentata tracks for a longer walking experience.

Echidna Track – 1.2 km (30 minutes)

This track winds through eucalypt forest littered with grass trees, descending to a footbridge across a creek and climbing again to meet the Entolaisia Trail or Rocks Track. This part of the forest is home to powerful owls and you may even be lucky enough to spot an echidna.

Curtisii Trail – 1.7 km (45 minutes)

This trail leads to the highest point in Karawatha Forest with spectacular views of the surrounding area. Visitors should exercise caution at the top as there are unfenced cliff edges.

Karawatha Forest

Karawatha Forest, located on the southern edge of Brisbane, is one of the city’s largest areas of remnant bushland. The forest is part of the Flinders Karawatha fauna corridor and contains a variety of habitats including eucalypt forest, heathland, wetlands and freshwater lagoons. This reserve is home to more than 100 bird species and rare species such as the greater glider, koalas and the green-thighed frog. Karawatha Forest has more than 320 plant species including Bailey’s stringybark and Planchon’s stringybark, both of which are not commonly found in Brisbane.